

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

Organizing Is In Her Blood

Sees Vital Link Between Workplace Power & Community Power

This year's Summer Fellowship Program has placed 75 law students in paid summer fellowships. There they will acquire hands-on experience advocating at unions, worker centers, non-profits and union-side law firms for thousands of workers and their families. Sochie Nnaemeka is a member of the 2016 Class of Fellows and is entering her third year at Georgetown University Law Center.

Sochie has been involved in workers' rights organizing since she was at Yale College where she received a Bachelor's Degree in History and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. She began with community organizing for the Connecticut Center for a New Economy, through which she became involved with the local unions in New Haven, CT.

After college, Sochie was a union organizer for two years in Miami, FL, where she organized casino workers and identified and helped train leaders who were predominantly immigrants and workers of color. "It became clear to me that workplace power is strengthened by community power and vice versa," stated Sochie. "The same forces that allow employers to retain all bargaining power in the shop often conspire to



Sochie Nnaemeka (Center) participating in a civil disobedience rally in Hollywood, FL, urging the reinstatement of casino workers who were illegally terminated for union activity.

keep workers from living lives of dignity in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods."

Sochie continued her work with UNITE HERE! organizing hundreds of students, workers, elected officials and the unemployed at the intersection of workplace and community organizing, working and then leading campaigns for inclusive development, local hiring, community benefits agreements and

good jobs. In 2014, she decided to attend Georgetown University Law Center to gain legal tools to continue to fight alongside working people for economic, racial and social justice. She is now entering her third year and has interned with the Center for Popular Democracy in New York and served as a law clerk in the General Counsel's office of the AFL-CIO. She will be spending this summer with the Los Angeles Black Worker Center Project.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work as a 'legal organizer' this summer strategizing and learning with the Los Angeles Black Worker Center to build a bolder and more inclusive labor movement and to open up greater pathways for quality employment."

- Sochie Nnaemeka



Margaret A. (Peggy) Browning

A Beacon for Workers' Rights

Our namesake was, by all accounts, an exceptional person whose life and qualities left their mark upon the legal community and on the national scene. Born in Tennessee and educated at Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Peggy was a creative and dynamic attorney.

While her name could have graced the masthead of any mega law firm, she chose to devote her energies to workers' rights. In her defense of workers' interests, she never lost a case in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Peggy was tirelessly focused on issues such as union representation, fair and equal pay and decent working conditions.

Her achievements strongly justified President Clinton's nomination of her as the first union-side lawyer in history to be appointed to the National Labor Relations Board.

The Peggy Browning Award is presented annually to social justice champions who have distinguished themselves with passion and dedication to the rights and needs of workers and their families.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Peggy Browning Fund educates and inspires the next generation of advocates for workplace justice. Through fellowships, workers' rights conferences, networking and other programs, the PBF provides unique opportunities for law students to work for economic and social justice.

Regional Workshops Expand Again

Broadening PBF's Impact



Our newest staff member, Julia Watkins, a former lead organizer for SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, joined the Peggy Browning Fund last July. Her special focus has been broadening the impact of PBF's core outreach initiative the Regional Workshop Program. The dual purpose of the program is to interest law school students to both apply for Peggy Browning Fellowships and pursue careers in a broad range of practice settings devoted to securing working people their full measure of rights and protections under the law.

Each Regional Workshop involves a panel discussion, co-sponsored by PBF and the host law school led by a moderator, usually a law professor, and followed by students networking with the panelists and the other lawyers in attendance. The panels are comprised of a former Peggy Browning Fellow, who explains the fellowship application process and the broad range of paid summer placements available, and lawyers working at federal and state regulatory agencies, worker centers, law firms, union legal

departments and legal services offices. Each panelist explains the challenges and satisfactions of his or her practice, and their example broadens the students' horizons as to possible career choices.

Starting in 2012 with a single workshop at Pitt Law School, PBF then co-hosted four workshops in 2013 and ten in 2014. By 2015, the program had grown to its current twelve law school format with panels being mounted at UC Berkeley, U. of the District of Columbia, Florida, Northeastern, North Carolina, Notre Dame, NYU, Rutgers, Southern U., St. John's, USC, and Washington U. This fall, the committee is planning twelve more workshops at the following law schools: Alabama, Drexel, Fordham, Harvard, Georgetown, Miami, Michigan, Ohio State, Southern U., Stanford, UCLA, and U. of Washington.

We thank the nearly 150 lawyers who have volunteered to participate in the Regional Workshop Program. Their involvement has proven to be of enormous value to the law students and has increased PBF's fellowship applications at the participating schools. If you're a lawyer or a Peggy Browning Fellow still in law school, who would like to participate in one of this fall's panels, please contact me at rbrean@usw.org.

PBF Board & Regional Workshop Chair

"I am proud that our Regional Workshops have increased from one workshop in 2012 to twelve in 2016. It is an excellent program that introduces students to labor and employment law through a panel of experienced attorneys and it provides students an opportunity to network with attorneys in both the private and public sector,"

- shared Gwynne A. Wilcox, Esq., PBF Board member and co-chair of the Regional Workshops Committee.

A Mentor's Prospective

Liz Chacko, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Friends of Farmworkers, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

Friends of Farmworkers (FOF), a state-wide legal services organization in Pennsylvania, has had the pleasure of hosting Peggy Browning Fund Fellows for many years. The fellows assist FOF with legal casework, community education, and outreach to our low-wage worker clients. They often travel with FOF staff across the state to meet with clients or help conduct know-your-rights presentations. The fellows provide meaningful assistance to our small organization at a time during the year when we often see a high volume of new cases coming in the door. Without our PBF Fellows, we would reach far fewer workers during the summer. Beyond the immediate help that they provide to us and our clients, it is remarkable to me,



Kate Brown, PBF'11, heads FOF's anti-labor trafficking project.

as a mentor, to see how many of our PBF Fellows continue to serve low-income immigrant workers after their summer fellowship. Many of our fellows have gone on to work at firms or organizations that provide immigration or employment-related legal assistance to immigrants.

"It is remarkable to me, as a mentor, to see how many of our PBF Fellows continue to serve low-income immigrant workers after their summer with FOF!"

Liz Chacko, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Friends of Farmworkers, Inc.

Two attorneys on our staff were PBF Fellows: Kate Brown heads our anti-labor trafficking project and Vanessa Stine, an Equal Justice Works Fellow, runs a project on immigrant consumer services fraud.



Vanessa Stine, PBF'12, runs FOF's project on immigrant consumer services fraud.

PBF Alumni Association

Building Chapters Across the Country

This year, the Peggy Browning Fund is establishing Alumni Association chapters in cities across the country. With over 700 alumni, and a growing number of fellowships every year, alumni have found the PBF network to be a valuable asset when it comes to searching for jobs, receiving support on a legal questions, legal referrals, and tapping in to the wealth of knowledge PBF alumni have.

The focus of the association is three-fold:

- Building a network of attorneys across cities to act as a legal community where alumni can share information and respond to questions on current labor and employment law topics;
- Coordinating social and professional development events, such as

lectures and workshops, and sharing information on area events that advance the rights of working people;

- Connecting alumni with each new class of Peggy Browning Fellows through participation in Fellow Orientations, Nat'l Conference Workshops, Regional Workshop

panels and at Alumni Association gatherings.

This year, four alumni association chapters are organizing in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. If you are interested in establishing an alumni association chapter near you, contact Julia at jwatkins@peggybrowningfund.org.



Peggy Browning Alumni at the first meeting of the New York City Chapter in March.

2016 Alumni Highlights

Peggy Browning Alumna Wins National Title

Demonstrating Her Moot Court Prowess



Champion Moot Court Team with their Coaches from Priddy, Cutler, Miller & Meade PLLC in Louisville, KY (L to R) Coach Emily DeVuono, Team mates Carolyn Purcell, PBF'15, Megan Diffenderfer, Kellie Money and Coach Ben Basil, PBF'09.

Carolyn Purcell, PBF'15, won the national championship in the 40th annual Robert F. Wagner Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition on March 20th, defeating George Washington University School

of Law in the championship round. Carolyn was joined by her teammates from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, Megan Diffenderfer and Kellie Money.

The Wagner Competition is the

nation's largest student-run moot court competition and the premier national competition dedicated exclusively to the areas of labor and employment law. 38 teams competed this year. At issue was whether transgender identity is a protected class under Section 703 of Title VII, and whether gender dysphoria constitutes a "serious health condition" under the Family Medical Leave Act.

This was the second year competing for Carolyn, who returned because of her passion for labor and employment law. She notes, "That passion certainly showed in my argument. After one particular round, I received some memorable feedback from the panel when one judge called me a 'gladiator' due to my ability to stick to my argument, even after a brutal line of questioning. It's easy to be a gladiator when you care so deeply about the subject matter."

"My PBF fellowship with the Chicago Newspaper Guild taught me more about representing unions and grievants in 90 days than I had learned in the nine years prior while working in a union office. I cannot thank Craig Rosenbaum, Jerry Minkinen, or the Peggy Browning Fund enough for that opportunity."

- Mark Floyd, PBF'99

PBF IS NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Like our page on Facebook

Find our group on LinkedIn

Follow us on Twitter @PeggyBFund

Facts About the Peggy Browning Fund*

- 75** Summer Fellowships in 2016 from a pool of over 325 applicants
- 154** Participating Law Schools
- 59** Mentor Organizations
- 706** Alumni (including 97 still in school)
- 405** Alumni working for workers' rights or other public interest organizations (this represents 66.5% of PBF alumni who have graduated from law school)
- Over 2,350** Students have attended PBF's National Law Students Workers' Rights Conferences

*As of press time

"Being a PBFellow put the wind in my sails when I networked early in my profession. I could not have built my gratifying career as a (unionized) labour and human rights lawyer in Canada without this organization."

- Linelle Mogado, PBF'03



Linelle Mogado, PBF'03

Licensed in Two Countries

Linelle Mogado moved to California after graduating law school. With few labor connections, she called Mary Anne Moffa at PBF who introduced Linelle to Kim Wirshing, in-house counsel at then-HERE Local 2 in San Francisco. After volunteering with the local of mostly immigrant hotel workers, and due to lockouts at 14 hotels in San Francisco, Linelle was put in charge of running their picketing headquarters so that the staff could be on the street. The experience was stressful, resolve-testing, and amazing. The strike became part of the backdrop to UNITE HERE!'s campaign 'Hotel Workers Rising!' which is active in North America today.

Linelle then went to work for Weinberg, Roger and Rosenfeld on wage-and-hour class actions for farm workers, construction workers, and janitors throughout California, Arizona and New Mexico. She decided to return to her native country of Canada and worked as in-house counsel at the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, then with UNITE HERE!'s local in British Columbia. "It was impossibly long to gain the credentials as a 'foreign-trained' lawyer in Canada, but after 2 1/2 years I did it!" Linelle recently joined the staff of the 46,000 member Hospital Employees Union in Vancouver where she specializes in workers' compensation appeals and assists workers who have been denied long-term disability benefits. She is licensed in two Canadian provinces and maintains her California Bar membership.



Kelvin Adefehinti, PBF'13

Finding Solutions for Working People

Kelvin has seen the importance of unions as a member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). As a teacher during the 2008 recession, he and his coworkers fought to keep their wages and benefits when state legislators sought to reduce the budget by "gutting" teachers' incomes. Teachers contacted their legislators and organized rallies. Their collective efforts curtailed the budget cuts.

Kelvin saw productivity and profits for companies growing while wages remained stagnant so he decided to become an advocate for employees. He attended law school at Catholic University of America and was awarded a PBF fellowship with the Teamsters where he learned that grievance procedures can be a powerful tool that can rectify small issues to wrongful terminations.

After graduation, Kelvin was an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. He recently became an associate at Osborne Law in Washington, DC, where he spends his days pushing himself to find solutions for working people.



Mark Floyd, PBF'99

Representing Unions and Affiliated Employee Benefit Funds

In Borger, TX, as a high school and college student, Mark prepared arbitrations when he worked in Phillips 66 oil refineries and was an IUOE Local 351 member. The closest labor attorneys were 650 miles away, so arbitration prep was left to Mark. This gave him insight into the role attorneys play in the labor movement.

Mark attended William & Mary Law School and received a PBF fellowship with the Chicago Newspaper Guild. The skills he learned during his fellowship proved invaluable as he began to practice law at Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman. There, he represented unions in grievance arbitration, interest arbitration, and petitions before the NLRB. Mark then made his way to Florida where he is now an attorney with Mierzwa & Floyd, P.A., and represents unions and affiliated employee benefit funds.

"I learned as a Peggy Browning Fund Alumnus that, traditionally, as individuals, we have been and may continue to be broken. However, as a collective group, we are strong, we can fight, and we will never be broken."

- Kelvin Adefehinti, PBF'13

To learn who are our 2016 Summer Fellows and where they're working, go to our website.
www.peggybrowningfund.org/news/fellows-brochure

Philadelphia Awards Reception

Warm and Inclusive



Awardees Margaret R. Brogan, Esq., Arbitrator & Mediator and Ryan N. Boyer, Business Manager, Laborers District Council of Philadelphia with PBF's President Joe Lurie.

On March 10th, the labor community in Philadelphia celebrated excellence in workplace advocacy during PBF's annual Awards Reception at Penns Landing Caterers. Our guests enjoyed a new level of comradery as the Peggy Browning Award was presented to Ryan N. Boyer, Business Manager, Laborers' District Council of Philadelphia and Margaret R. Brogan, Esq., Arbitrator and Mediator for their commitment to social justice.

2013 Fellow Danielle Newsome, an associate at Willig, Williams & Davidson, recounted her summer experience at Sheet Metal Workers

Local 19 and how completing her fellowship while the union was on strike inspired her to continue studying labor law. "As we all know, going out on strike is a hard decision and it's really scary for the people who have their livelihoods on the line," she said. "But the staff here at Local 19 were there before dawn every morning and out there all day reminding those workers what they were fighting for... Seeing them come out and talk to those workers on the strike line reminded me of why I got into the labor movement in the first place and why I continue to do that work today."

Philadelphia 2016 Reception Sponsors

Steward

LiUNA! Mid Atlantic Region

Guardian

IBEW Local 98

Laborers' District Council of Philadelphia & Vicinity

Littler Mendelson PC

Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano/
Union Services Access



PBF'13 Alumna Danielle Newsome shares her Summer Fellowship experience.

New York Awards Reception

Recognizes Titans in Labor Community



Shannon Poland, Executive Assistant to Awardee John Samuelsen, President, TWU Local 100 with PBF's President Joe Lurie and Awardees Carol O'Rourke Pennington, Esq. of Colleran, O'Hara & Mills and Howard Edelman, Esq., Arbitrator & Mediator.

The New York Ballroom at the Sheraton NY Times Square Hotel was a full house once again on April 6th as over 330 guests from the greater New York area came together to celebrate three outstanding leaders in labor. Recognizing their contributions to social justice and advocacy for workers and their families, the Peggy Browning Award was presented to John Samuelsen, President of Transport Workers Union Local 100, Carol O'Rourke Pennington, Esq., of Colleran, O'Hara & Mills, and Arbitrator & Mediator Howard Edelman, Esq.

While accepting their awards, Mr. Edelman and Ms. O'Rourke Pennington both spoke about their passion for their work and the importance of labor advocacy, both in New York City and around the country. Shannon Poland, Executive Assistant to the President at Transport Workers Union Local 100, shared memories of his fellowship, emphasizing that his experience at SEIU "was an invaluable introduction to the legal realm of the labor movement."

New York 2016 Reception Sponsors

Steward

Colleran, O'Hara & Mills

Metallic Lathers & Reinforcing Ironworkers
Local 46

Guardian

1199 SEIU

Ironworkers Local 580

New York Hotel Trades Council/
UNITE HERE Local 6

Pitta & Giblin LLP

Proskauer LLP

Martin Scheinman

Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 28

Transport Workers Union

TWU Local 100



PBF'09 Alumnus Dan Flaherty, now an associate with the firm Spivak Lipton, LLP, stressing the importance of the Peggy Browning Fellowship experience.

2016 Leadership Circle Supports PBF's Programs

The Peggy Browning Fund gratefully acknowledges the following annual Leadership Circle donors:

Pacesetter

United Steelworkers

Leader

AFL-CIO

Champion

AFGE

AFSCME

Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters

Joseph Lurie

Robbins, Geller, Rudman & Dowd

Service Employees Int'l Union

Benefactor

American Federation of Teachers

Galfand Berger, LLP

Richard J. Brean, Esq.

Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

New York State United Teachers

Pitta & Giblin LLP

Patrick J. Szymanski, Esq.

United Auto Workers

Defender

Amalgamated Transit Union

Cohen, Weiss and Simon LLP

Gilbert and Sackman

Int'l Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craft Workers

Kennedy, Jennik & Murray, PC

NFL Players Association

Quinn, Connor, Weaver, Davies & Rouco, LLP

Sheet Metal Workers Int'l Association

United Food & Commercial Workers

Patron

AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee

Michael L. Artz, Esq.

Calibre CPA Group PLLC

James C. Kokolas, CPA

Levy Ratner, PC

Mehri & Skalet PLLC

National Association of Letter Carriers

Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano

Rosanne & Samuel Spear

Sugarman & Susskind, P.A.

Gwynne A. Wilcox, Esq.

Winebrake & Santillo, LLC

Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

100 S. Broad Street, Suite 1208

Philadelphia, PA 19110

Phone: 267-273-7990 Fax: 267-273-7688

www.peggybrowningfund.org

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLMAWR, NJ
PERMIT# 403

Board of Directors

Chair

Richard J. Brean, Esq.
United Steelworkers

Founder & President

Joseph Lurie, Esq.
Peggy Browning Fund

Treasurer

James C. Kokolas, CPA
Calibre CPA Group PLLC

Secretary

Michael L. Artz, Esq., PBF2000
AFSCME

Vincent F. Pitta, Esq.
Pitta & Giblin LLP

Richard M. Resnick, Esq.
*Sherman, Dunn, Cohen, Leifer
& Yellig PC*

Lynn Rhinehart, Esq.
AFL-CIO

Patrick J. Szymanski, Esq.
Change to Win

Gwynne A. Wilcox, Esq.
Levy Ratner PC

The official registration and financial information of the Peggy Browning Fund may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Join us as the Peggy Browning Award is presented to:



Larry Cohen

*Past President,
Communications Workers
of America*



Richard J. Brean, Esq.

*General Counsel
United Steelworkers*



Elizabeth Bunn

*Director of Organizing
AFL-CIO*

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

**AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room
815 Sixteenth Street, Washington, DC**

For more information visit www.peggybrowningfund.org/events
Or call 267-273-7994

SAVE THE DATES!

2016 National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference

October 14 & 15

**The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD**

**Watch our website for details
www.peggybrowningfund.org**

**For more information, contact
Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director
267-273-7992**